

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 02414 011031Z
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TAGS: PINT, RO
SUBJ: ROMANIAN PREPARATION FOR THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN
SECURITY-CULTURE EXCHANGES
REF: BUCHAREST 0745

SUMMARY: CONTINUING THE SERIES OF MAJOR PRESS ARTICLES ON ROMANIA'S
VIEW OF VARIOUS CSCE TOPICS PRIOR TO BELGRADE CONFERENCE, TWO
RECENT ARTICLES CITE IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL GOR'S ACTIVITY IN
CULTURAL FIELD WITH OTHER HELSINKI SIGNATORIES. END SUMMARY.

1. MAJOR ARTICLES ON ROMANIAN CULTURAL EXCHANGES IN CSCE CONTEXT
APPEAR IN MARCH 25 SCINTEIA AND ROMANIA LIBERA, BY DIFFERENT
AUTHORS BUT MAKING ESSENTIALLY SAME POINT. STRONG ENDORSEMENT
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PAGE 02 BUCAR 02414 011031Z

FOR ENTIRE FINAL ACT OF HELSINKI IS GIVEN WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS
IN THESE TWO ARTICLES ON IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION OF CULTURAL COOPERATIO
N
TOWARD PEACE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING IN EUROPE. BASED ON THE
UNDERLYING ASSUMPTION OF THE VALUE OF SUCH EXCHANGES, ROMANIAN
POLICY HAS BEEN TO CONSISTENTLY "DEVELOP CULTURAL EXCHANGES
WITH OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND WITH ALL STATES OF THE WORLD

BY SENDING ABROAD MESSAGE OF ITS PEOPLE AND OF THEIR WILL
TO BUILD A NEW SOCIALIST CIVILIZATION WHILE ENRICHING ITS WON
CULTURE WITH THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF OTHER NATIONS."

2. THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS ARE PROVIDED RE ROMANIA'S CULTURAL
RELATIONS WITH OTHER HELSINKI FINAL ACT SIGNATORIES:

--IN 1975-1976, ABOUT 650 (TITLES) WORKS OF LITERATURE FROM
OTHER HELSINKI SIGNATORIES WERE PUBLISHED IN ROMANIA; 380 MORE
TITLES ARE SCHEDULED FOR PUBLICATION IN 1978. DURING THIS SAME
PERIOD 220 ROMANIAN LITERARY WORKS APPEARED IN 28 OF THE SIGNATORY
STATES.

--DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS MORE THAN 300 ROMANIAN WRITERS, OF
ALL AGES, TRAVELLED ABROAD FOR DIRECT CONTACTS WITH THEIR FOREIGN
COUNTERPARTS AND PARTICIPANTS IN VARIOUS SYMPOSIA, CONGRESSES
AND OTHER MEETINGS. IN THE SAME PERIOD ROMANIAN WRITERS' UNION
HAS HOSTED VISITS OF ALMOST 230 WRITERS FROM EUROPE, UNITED STATES
AND CANADA.

--RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN THE
PUBLISHING WORLD, THE ROMANIAN PUBLISHERS' CENTER, THE CENTRAL
STATE LIBRARY AND THE SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING HOUSE MAINTAIN CLOSE
RELATIONS WITH COUNTERPART INSTITUTIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES
AND MAINTAIN A PERMANENT EXCHANGE OF MATERIALS AND INFORMATION
WITH THEM.

--DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS ROMANIA HAS ORGANIZED OVER 200
TOURS BY GROUPS IN THE FIELDS OF THEATER, MUSIC, FINE ARTS,
CINEMATOGRAPHY AND FOLKLORE TO OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES,
THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. IN THIS PERIOD MORE THAN 300 GROUPS
AND INDIVIDUAL PERFORMERS FROM THOSE COUNTRIES APPEARED IN ROMANIA.

--DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS ROMANIA HAS PRESENTED ABOUT 100 ART
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PAGE 03 BUCAR 02414 011031Z

EXHIBITS IN SIGNATORY COUNTRIES AND HAS RECEIVED ABOUT 60 EXHIBITS
FROM THESE COUNTRIES.

--DURING THIS PERIOD ROMANIA HAS PRESENTED 30 FILM FESTIVALS IN
THE SIGNATORY NATIONS AND HAS HOSTED 20 FESTIVALS OF FILMS FROM
THOSE COUNTRIES.

3. WHILE LAUDING THE EXCHANGES WHICH HAVE THUS FAR BEEN ARRANGED,
THESE ARTICLES EXPRESS SOME REGRET THAT THERE IS NOT COMPLETE
RECIPROCITY IN THAT SOME OF THE ESTERN COUNTRIES DO NOT PUBLISH
AS MANY ROMANIAN BOOKS, ENCOURAGE AS MANY ROMANIAN PERFORMANCES
OR FILM SHOWINGS AS ROMANIA DOES FOR FOREIGN WORKS HERE. IN
CONCLUSION IT IS SAID THAT THE PURITY OF CULTURE MUST BE DEFENDED
SO THAT "THE WONDERFUL ACHIEVEMENTS OF MANKIND MAY HELP PROMOTE
GENUINE VALUES AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLES..." IT
IS RECOMMENDED THAT MEASURES BE TAKEN AGAINST MORAL
POLLUTION, SEEMINGLY PROMOTED IN SOME WESTERN COUNTRIES THROUGH
THE PRAISE OF VIOLENCE, DRUG ADDICTION, RACISM AND OTHER
DANGEROUS TENDENCIES."

4. IN THIS VAIN IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 30, WITHOUT PRIOR ANNOUNCEMENT, THE FILM "THE FRONT", STARRING WOODY ALLEN AND ZERO MOSTEL WAS SHOWN UNEXPURGATED (INCLUDING FOUR-LETTER OBSENIITIES NEVER BEFORE HEARD HERE) ON ROMANIAN TV. THE OBVIOUS POINT OF THE SHOWING OF THE MOVIE WAS TO HIGHLIGHT THE BALCKLISTING WHICH CHARACTERIZED THE AMERICAN MOVIE INDUSTRY IN THE EARLY '50S (AS IF TO SAY THAT SUCH A COUNTRY WAS IN NO POSITION TO CITE OTHER NATIONS ON BASKET III ISSUES). APRIL 1 SCINTEIA AND ROMANIA LIBERA CONTAIN SCATHING ATTACKS ON THE FILM AND ANNOUNCE THAT IT IS BEING SHOWN AGAIN ON TV THIS MORNING. IN CASE ANYONE MISSED THE POINT, THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM WAS A DOCUMENTARY DEVOTED TO STRIKES, UNEMPLOYMENT AND GENERAL ECONOMIC WOES IN THE WEST, ESPECIALLY IN THE UNITED STATES.

5. COMMENT: THESE ARTICLES CONTINUE THE SERIES OF MAJOR EDITORIALS ON CSCE AFFAIRS BEGUN IN EARLY FEBRUARY (REFTEL) AS PART OF ROMANIA'S PRE-BELGRADE PREPARATIONS. TO DATE THERE HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 BUCAR 02414 011031Z

BEEN AROUND A DOZEN OF THEM, BUT THE TWO DESCRIBED ABOVE ARE UNUSUAL IN THE AMOUNT OF DETAIL AND STATISTICS CITED TO SUPPORT ROMANIA'S CASE. OBVIOUSLY, WE HAVE NO WAY TO CONFIRM OR DENY THE VERACITY OF THESE STATISTICS, BUT WE ANTICIPATE THEY WILL SURFACE AGAIN IN BELGRADE.
BARNES

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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